

**EdBlast! — All  
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### **Message from the State Superintendent of Education**

Where has the summer gone? It is hard to believe that school buses are back on the road, and that doors are opening this week in eight of our school districts.

As a former teacher in a family of educators, I have always known that the work educators do each day is more difficult than any other job. Even as we begin this final school year of my second term in office, I am still in awe of what is taking place in classrooms across our state. The dedication to the children of South Carolina, the commitment to public education, and the determination to succeed even under the most challenging conditions have inspired me, not just professionally but personally. I have never been more proud to call myself a South Carolina educator and more committed to helping our state remain competitive in a world where change is the norm.

To do that, we must focus on high standards, rigorous assessments, and accountability for results. Second, we must continue and intensify our efforts to combat the effects of poverty, a pervasive fact of life in South Carolina. We must build on our success in raising achievement in math and science. And we must change the culture of education from one in which dropping out of high school is acceptable to one in which all students graduate, willing and able to think critically and creatively, to be re-educated several times, to embrace change.

The duty I have had as South Carolina's Superintendent of Education has truly been my greatest joy. I am proud of what we have accomplished together, and I am confident that we have moved closer over the past eight years to the goal President John F. Kennedy had in mind when he said, "Let us think of education as the means of developing our greatest abilities, because in each of us there is the private hope and dream which, fulfilled, can be translated into benefit for everyone and greater strength for our nation."

Best wishes for a successful 2006-07 school year. I look forward to working with you during the months ahead.

**Inez**

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### **Govan receives 2006 Palmetto Passion and Policy Service Award**

Rep. Jerry Govan is this year's recipient of the 2006 Palmetto Policy and Passion Service Award, presented by the South Carolina Commission on National and Community Service. To read the details, visit:

<http://ed.sc.gov/news/more.cfm?articleID=678>

### **Exceptional educator nominee draws support from Hampton community**

Angela Hutto, nominated this spring as South Carolina's Exceptional Educator of the Year, always knew she wanted to be a teacher, but she never planned on entering the field of special education. While working on her undergraduate degree at Clemson University, Hutto looked forward to teaching high school history until she began tutoring a special needs student. To read more, go to:

<http://ed.sc.gov/news/more.cfm?articleID=677>

### **Spartanburg teacher credits support from students' families**

Cece Wright, resource teacher at Pine Street Elementary School and Special Educator of the Year for upstate South Carolina, shares the credit for her success with a special group of VIPs. For the details, go to:

<http://ed.sc.gov/news/more.cfm?articleID=676>

### **Principal Induction Program accepting applications for fall institute**

The State Department of Education's Principal Induction Program focuses on individual and team organizational development. A requirement for newly appointed principals, the program provides training in leadership and management skills essential to success in the principalship. Sponsored by the Office of School Leadership, the program's fall institute will be held September 24-28 at the Mandren Center at Clemson University. Registration deadline is September 11. For program inquiries, contact Brenda Boykin ([bboykin@ed.sc.gov](mailto:bboykin@ed.sc.gov)) at 803-734-8561 or Jacquelyn FrostBurnett, ([jfrostbu@ed.sc.gov](mailto:jfrostbu@ed.sc.gov)) at 803-734-3263. For logistics questions, contact Beverly Brosnan ([brojna@clemson.edu](mailto:brojna@clemson.edu)) at 864-656-4444.

### **School Boards Association sponsors awards**

The South Carolina School Boards Association is seeking nominations for its 2006 Legislative Advocacy Program of the Year award. To be eligible, programs must have operated for the most recent legislative sessions of the United States Congress and the South Carolina General Assembly. The award will be presented at the organization's conference December 1-3 on Hilton Head, and the deadline for application is September 30. For additional information, contact Debbie Elmore ([delmore@scsba.state.sc.us](mailto:delmore@scsba.state.sc.us)) at 800-326-3679.

### **National Civic Star Awards program accepting applications**

Don't miss the opportunity to enter your district's exemplary school-community partnership in the 2007 National Civic Star Awards competition. Co-sponsored by the American Association of School Administrators and Sodexo School Services, the program recognizes districts that have teamed with local communities to develop and implement innovative programs to advance student learning. Applications must be postmarked by August 11. For more information, go to:

<http://www.aasa.org/awards/content.cfm?ItemNumber=892>

### **Merrill Lynch Young Entrepreneur Award**

The South Carolina Council on Economic Education is currently seeking nominations for the Merrill Lynch Young Entrepreneur Award. Nominees must be South Carolina elementary, middle, or high school students actively involved in their own business enterprise. The five award winners are interviewed by ETV as part of the Stock Market Program and each receives a \$200 cash prize. For more information or to enter a nomination, click on the link at the bottom of this page:

<http://www.sceconomics.org>

### **Columbia Museum of Art offers teacher renewal credit opportunities**

The Columbia Museum of Art will offer several classes for teachers this fall. All classes are eligible for renewal work credit. Offerings include Speedy Mosaic workshop, Letterpress Printing and Bookbinding Workshop, the Figure In Pastel Workshop, Figure Drawing, Batik On Paper: Art of the Floatograph workshop, and More Jewelry Techniques. For details, contact Leslie Pierce ([leslie@columbiamuseum.org](mailto:leslie@columbiamuseum.org)) at 803-343-2208.

<http://www.columbiamuseum.org/html/s07school.shtml>

### **U.S. Food and Drug Administration launches education program**

"Medicines In My Home" is an education program intended to teach middle school students about how to use over-the-counter medicine. Students will learn the importance of reading and following the drug facts label and making medicine decisions with a parent or guardian. The program has a teachers' kit with education tools for classroom learning, and a students' page for on-line learning. To learn more, visit:

<http://www.fda.gov/medsinmyhome>

#### **Site honors contributions of veterans**

"Kids Thank A Vet" is a new web site designed to make students more aware of the contributions of our nation's veterans. Created by a teacher, the site offers a wide range of information, including facts about service personnel, teacher activities, American wars and conflicts, and women in the military. The address is:

<http://www.kidsthankavet.com/>

#### **August honoree is broadcaster and documentary filmmaker**

Beryl Dakers built a 30-year career in broadcasting on a pioneering start that had her opening a series of doors previously locked to women and minorities. The Columbia native has been on the frontlines of the biggest news events in South Carolina. To read more about her, visit:

<http://scafricanamerican.com/ed/12006.html>

#### **This issue's quotation**

"There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, learning from failure." ~~ Colin Powell

#### **EdBlast! welcomes submissions**

Do you need help in publicizing an education news item that would be of interest to a statewide audience? Send your information to [jfairnot@ed.sc.gov](mailto:jfairnot@ed.sc.gov) or call Janice Larrymore Fairnot, EdBlast! editor, at 803-734-8999.

#### **Spread the word about EdBlast!**

We need your help in spreading the word about EdBlast!, the State Department of Education's e-newsletter. Here's the sign-up link:

<http://ed.sc.gov/tools/edblast/>

**Thanks for sharing!**